

LOAD BALANCING WITH MESH TAGGING

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 One embodiment disclosed relates to a method of load balancing traffic in
a switching mesh. A packet is received at a switch of the mesh. A MAC
destination address is gathered from the packet. An entry in a MAC address
table is found with the MAC destination address, and a switch identifier
associated with the MAC destination address is obtained. An entry in a switch
10 table is found with the switch identifier, and data associated with the switch
identifier is obtained. A hash function is used on field data from the packet to
generate a hash value, and the hash value and the associated data are used to
generate an index value. An entry in the tag table is found with the index value,
and a path tag associated with the index value is obtained. The path tag is
15 inserted into the packet. The path tags may be weighted.